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IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A magnetic recording medium, comprising:

a substrate,

a niobium-containing seedlayer containing nitrogen having a thickness

from about 1Å to about 40Å; and

a magnetic layer.

A1

12. (Amended) A method of making a magnetic recording medium comprising:

depositing a niobium-containing seedlayer containing nitrogen on a

substrate, wherein the seedlayer has a thickness from about 1Å to about 40Å; and

depositing a magnetic layer.

A2

20. (Amended) A magnetic recording medium comprising:

a substrate; and

means for maximizing the remanent coercivity of the recording medium by providing a niobium-containing seedlayer containing nitrogen.

A3